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School Committee Minutes 06/13/2013

Approved by School Committee September 12, 2013

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

***In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General laws, Chapter 30A,
Section 20, notice is hereby given for the following meeting of the:***

***Arlington School Committee
Regular School Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 13, 2013
6:30 p.m.***

***Arlington High School
School Committee Room – Sixth Floor
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476***

Present: Mr. Judson Pierce, Mr. William Hayner, Ms. Cindy Starks, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Ms. Leba Heigham, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, and Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA President, Student Representative Caroline Merta and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Special Education Director

Mr. Pierce opened the meeting at 6:39 p.m. and held a moment of silence for Governor Paul Cellucci who passed away.

Public Participation

None

Update on School Safety

Dr. Bodie spoke on safety at each of the schools. The elementary schools are secure and safe due to the need to buzz in all visitors. The Ottoson Middle School and Arlington High School need work and Dr. Bodie plan on requesting funds from Capital Planning to look at providing more cameras at each of those schools. Dr. Bodie recommends that the School Committee approve a new position and to include it into the budget for next year. This new position would be at the front doors of the high school and would provide check in and help secure the safety of those in the building during the day. The salary would be similar to a teaching assistant.

Ms. Heigham motioned to accept Dr. Bodie's recommendation for this new position at the front desk of the high school at a salary similar to a teaching assistant, seconded by Ms. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

District Determine Measures, Common Core Alignment (Goal 1- Student Achievement)

Dr. Laura Chesson provided the committee members with a PowerPoint presentation on the Common Core State Standards. This included overarching views of the standards, the major changes in literacy and numeracy, the current status of implementation and all the work which lies ahead. Dr. Chesson, Ms. Linda Hanson, Ms. Deb Perry, Mr. Matt Coleman, Mr. Larry Weathers, Ms. Kerry Dunne and Ms. Catherine Ritz each spoke on the District Determine Measures. Each Curriculum Director, Literacy Specialists and Dr. Chesson reviewed the District Determine Measures versus the Common Formative Assessments and spoke on what is in place now and how they will proceed next year and in the future with creating and piloting measures in Physical Education, music, art, and health.

The committee thanked the directors and it was suggested that the School Committee address additional questions to Kathleen Bodie or to each department head.

Approval of School Calendar 2013-2014

The committee members discussed having 12 Early Release Days for the Elementary students and after Dr. Chesson and Dr. Bodie explained the need for them, the following motion was made:

Mr. Thielman moved to approve the Professional Development Days we have on the Arlington Public Schools 2013-2014 school calendar, draft A, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Allison-Ampe and Mr. Pierce echo each other on the parental concerns with the number of early release days, especially in the month of December. Mr. Pierce was concerned why we moved Arlington High School Graduation from Sunday to Saturday and suggested a survey from teachers around this.

Approval of Data Assistant Job Description

Dr. Bodie and Mr. Spiegel said the Data Assistant position is already in the budget for next year, under AEA, Unit C, Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Thielman moved approval of the Data Assistant job description, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

District Goals 2013-2014 – Second Reading

Dr. Bodie presented the primary Goals for the district for a second reading and for approval.

Ms. Starks moved approval of the Arlington Public Schools, 2013-2014 District Goals, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

Superintendent Report

Dr. Bodie received the NEASC report and said she would like to hold a separate meeting on this report and invite Arlington High School teachers, Curriculum leaders and others. The report reflected a visit that ended in December, 2012. Dr. Bodie spoke on the Search Committee's created to fill spaces vacated due to recent retirements and announced the recent hires of Ms. Cindy Sheridan - Attendance Officer, Ms. Sue Franchi - Director of Nursing, and Ms. Melissa Dlugolecki -Athletic Director. Dr. Bodie acknowledged the Annual Staff Recognition Day was held today, June 13th. Dr. Bodie thanked Ms. Ortwein for her 45 years of service and for her work with another successful high school graduation and recognized the Music Department who was featured in the Boston Magazine. The Rotary Club was attended by Dr. Bodie, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Hayner and Ms. Starks where Mary Villano was honored for her years of service in Arlington. Dr. Bodie continues to receive emails regarding class sizes and will continue to monitor class sizes over the summer.

The committee discussed when to hold a summer meeting, and it was suggested not to go eight weeks without meeting. A date was not finalized.

Update on Thompson Rebuild

Dr. Bodie reported the Thompson Rebuild is still on target and will be holding a Tech University program for two weeks in August. Mr. Thielman is looking at dates for the Library dedication which he hopes to be held September 29th for the William "Bill" Shea Library, and the building dedication on Sunday, September 15, 2013.

Monthly Financial Report Update

Ms. Johnson spoke on the monthly tracking reports, capture second and last payroll and said we have a small amount of savings of \$250,000 and will use it for technology and curriculum.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Policies & Procedures - Mr. Thielman presented First Readings of CBI Evaluation of the Superintendent and BDFA-E-2 District-wide Goal Setting and Performance Objective Process. Deletion of CBI-E Superintendent Evaluation Tool.

The committee members were in agreement that the School Committee should not go eight weeks without a meeting. Mr. Pierce suggested that the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee present which policies and procedures they plan to review next school year at the next school committee meeting.

Budget - Nothing to report.

Community Relations – Nothing to report.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability – Nothing to report.

Facilities – Nothing to report.

Legal Services Review

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved that the School Committee continue the temporary Legal Services Review Subcommittee, as allowed by Policy BDE, for the purposes of examining the expenditures on legal services; documenting legal needs around special education disputes; and performing other work as appropriate. Scope of examination is to include the current fiscal year, and as far back in time as the Legal Services Review Subcommittee feels it needs to analyze for useful comparisons. Subcommittee is to deliver a report by the first meeting in October 2013, or earlier, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Chair – Mr. Pierce asked the committee to approve school committee members to attend MACS/MASS Conference.

Ms. Heigham moved approval of School Committee members Mr. Pierce and Mr. Hayner to attend the MACS/MASS Joint Conference, November, 2013 and sign up for the early bird special, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 7-0

Approval of Human Rights Commission

Mr. Schlichtman moved approval for the Arlington School Committee to appoint Mr. Nick Minton to the Human Rights Commission for a three year term, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Consent Agenda

Ms. Heigham moved approval of All items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence:

*Approval of Warrant # 13168 Dated May 23, 2013, Total Warrant Amount \$615,146.49

**Minutes for Approval: May 9, 2013 and May 23, 2013*

**OMS and AHS Trip to Nagaokakyo, Japan, July 6-16, 2013, seconded by Mr. Hayner.*

Voted: 7-0

The committee once again discussed setting up a meeting or a retreat to discuss the NESAC report.

Secretary's Report

We received the following correspondence:

- *Letter from Richard Greco regarding the passing of a retiree from the APS and requesting a copy of the death certificate.*
- *Letter to Ms. Di Figlia from Chairman Pierce congratulating her on her appointment to the Arlington Human Rights Commission.*
- *Email from Principal Villano on the hiring of a new athletic director for the APS.*
- *Letter to DESE in Massachusetts from Superintendent Bodie about our vote at our last meeting not to participate in School Choice for the 2013-2014 school year.*
- *Letter from MASC telling us on end of year conference savings to attend the MASC/MASS conference in Hyannis in November.*
- *Copies of the AHS Senior Awards night and Commencement Exercise Program from last week and this past weekend.*
- *June 2013 copy of the Ponder Report*
- *Pointer to the Superintendent's May newsletter*
- *Email from Mary Cummings requesting the school committee to attend or submit written testimony to the hearings on June 27 regarding regulatory relief in the schools.*
- *Copy of the Regulatory Relief Bills before the 188th General Court on June 27*
- *Copy of the resume of Nick Minton, whose appointment to the Arlington Human Rights Commission expires in June of 2013.*
- *Copy of the NEASC report on AHS*
- *Minutes of the EDCO Board of Directors Meeting from May 9, 2013*
- *Copy of the Press release announcing the hiring of a new Athletic Director for AHS*

Executive Session

Mr. Schlichtman moved to enter Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect. Renewal of contract with Stoneman, Chandler and Miller, and to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect.

Collective bargaining may also be conducted and to exit only for the purpose of adjournment, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Roll Call: unanimous

Voted: 7-0

Adjourn

Mr. Schlichtman moved to adjourn at 9:31 p.m., seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

*Respectfully submitted by
Karen M. Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee/cs*